

LA CROSSE VIRUS QUICK FACTS

La Crosse virus (LACV) is an arthropod-borne virus (arbovirus) that is primarily transmitted in Indiana by *Aedes triseriatus* mosquitoes. LACV disease is a member of a larger group of viruses called the California serogroup. Although most people who become infected with LACV do not develop any symptoms, some people can develop seizures, paralysis, or severe inflammation in the brain. Please visit the ISDH West Nile virus page for more information (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/28276.htm>).

TRANSMISSION

LACV is transmitted in Indiana by the eastern treehole mosquito, *Aedes triseriatus*, which lays its eggs in man-made containers or natural cavities in tree trunks (treeholes). Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected small mammals such as chipmunks and squirrels. Infected mosquitoes can then spread LACV to people and other mammals. Once infected, people and other mammals are “dead-end hosts,” which means that they do not pass the virus on to other biting mosquitoes.

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Most people infected with LACV do not develop any symptoms.

Some people develop a fever and other symptoms. Signs and symptoms of LACV disease usually appear with 5-15 days of a bite from an infected mosquito. Symptoms can include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting, and tiredness. Severe disease including encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) and seizures occurs most commonly in children under the age of 16. Less than 1% of LACV disease cases are fatal. Some people who recover will experience severe ongoing complications.

DIAGNOSIS

Diagnosis of LACV disease is based upon the patient’s signs and symptoms and appropriate laboratory testing. If you think that you have LACV disease, contact your health care provider.

TREATMENT

No specific medication is available to treat LACV disease. People with severe illness usually require hospitalization, supportive care, and/or rehabilitation.



Indiana State
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PREVENTION

The best way to prevent LACV disease is to avoid mosquito bites. Please see our mosquito bite prevention page (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/28007.htm>) for more information.

Filling treeholes to eliminate mosquito breeding sites is another way to prevent LACV transmission. To learn more about filling treeholes, click here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/zika/pdfs/TreeHoles-FactSheet.pdf>

For more information about LACV disease, please visit the CDC West Nile virus website (<https://www.cdc.gov/lac/index.html>).

STATISTICS

LACV disease is rare in Indiana. One case was reported from 2013 – 2017. For more information about infectious diseases in Indiana, visit our annual report pages (<https://www.in.gov/isdh/20667.htm>).

National statistics for LACV disease can be found at the CDC Statistics and Maps webpage (<https://www.cdc.gov/lac/tech/epi.html>).

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